

What's Up?

The English-Speaking Community Newsletter



Dear ESC members,

It's the Rentrée again, good to see you after the long summer break! However, it feels like we've never stopped seeing each other... After the exceptional barbecue that we had on 26th June, your committee and a few members offered you events to keep you entertained, and so many of you were happy to take part.

Our July and August stars - **Garden party, Ravito des Cyclos, Château de Kolbsheim gardens and Marche Gourmande** - are reviewed in this issue of the newsletter through a lavish use of photos. Speaking of the newsletter, it is going to be issued bimonthly (every two months and not twice a month, one of those confusing words!) and cover two months' worth of news. The new website will give you instantly all the information you need with, whenever possible, a forward planning over three months. We invite you to make use of this modernised tool without any moderation. Our new business cards are just out of the oven and will be handed to you shortly.

So come and continue celebrating the Rentrée with us! After the picnic at the Orangerie, we have pledged to keep you happily busy the weekend of 10th and 11th September. Meet us for a unique cultural tour in **Andlau** and don't forget to visit us at the **Village des Assos**. There, you will get to try our new game, already popular in the US, the Cornhole!

Joëlle Gloire, President

September - October 2022

For more info and updates, visit the
[What's On](#) page of the ESC website:

...esc-alsace.org...

ESC contacts

- General: contact@esc-alsace.org
- Newsletter: newsletter@esc-alsace.org
- Events: events@esc-alsace.org

Upcoming events

also see: <https://esc-alsace.org/calendar/>

Coffee morning

THURSDAY 15 SEPTEMBER: 9.30 - 11.30 am

Members and guests are welcome to visit us for our free coffee mornings in La Robertsau (CSC l'Escale, 78 rue du Docteur François: tram E, buses 30 and L6, good parking facilities, access for disabled available).

The upstairs room has been booked on the following dates: 13/10, 17/11, 15/12.

Call in any time between 9.30 and 11.30 pm for a chat, drinks, biscuits and friendly faces. A selection of books will be on display. Surely you find something you will want to take home. For further details, please contact Maggie at mvautheny@esc-alsace.org.



Apéro at the Péniche Mécanique

FRIDAY 16 SEPTEMBER: 6.30 - 8.30 pm

Join us from 6.30 to 8.30 at Péniche Mécanique on Presqu'île Malraux on the side of the Médiathèque. You know the rule... You buy the drinks and ESC provides some nibbles.

Please sign up here: [AperoPeniche](#)

And save the date for our next apéro at Parc de la Citadelle on 7/10!



Mahjong group

on alternate TUESDAY afternoons

Hannelore would gladly welcome you around the Mahjong table to show you the secrets of this fascinating strategy game. The group (4 to 8 participants) meets in private homes on a rotating basis, on a Tuesday afternoon (some evening meetings may be tried in the upcoming months).

To join or for details, please contact Hannelore at hannelore.bolon@gmail.com



Impro group

Monthly meetings on FRIDAYS 7.00 - 9.00 pm

Theatrical improvisation, impro, is a good opportunity for live practice of the English language, in a games format for fun two-hour sessions which can appeal to natives and fluent non-natives, even if they have no experience or ambition in theatre. You will be gently guided by Nikki to act in several role-playing exercises with an emphasis on spontaneity. Just be ready to let mental barriers down to tap into your creative side! To express interest, please contact events@esc-alsace.org.



Autumn walk from Villé to Frankenbourg castle

SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER: 10.00 am

Join us on our circular walk at Breitenau near Villé. We will walk up through the woods to the Château du Frankenbourg, a typical medieval castle with a magnificent view of the Vosges and the Château du Haut Koenigsbourg. On our way back we can stop at the spectacular Roches des Fées.

Departure time: 10.00 am.

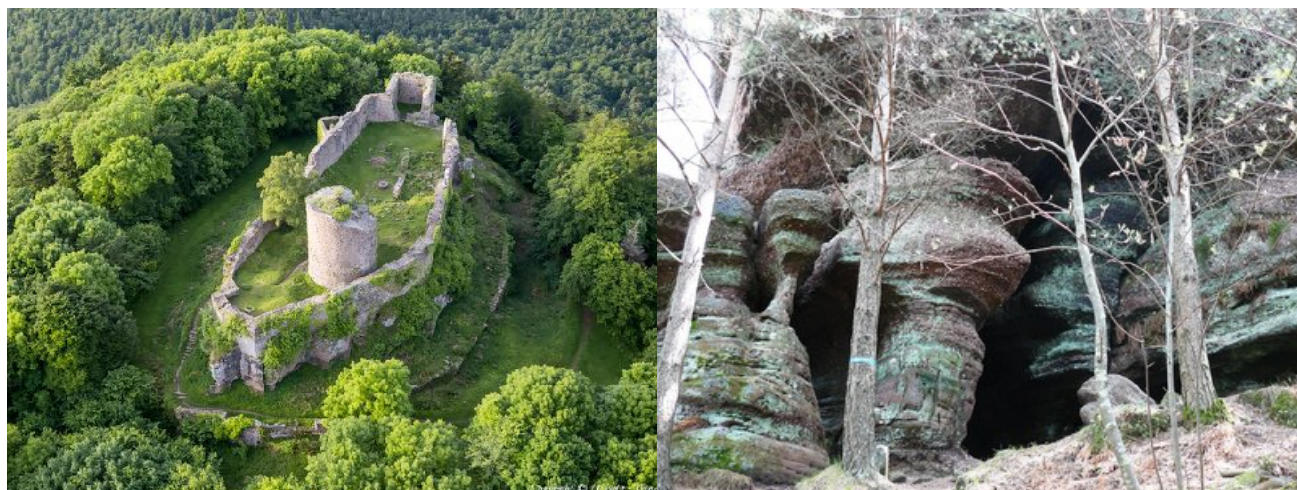
Meeting place: Car park in Villé next to the railway station on the left, just after you get into Villé.

Walking details: Around 11 km (4 hours walking time); Elevation gain: 365 m. Walking shoes and sticks are recommended. Don't forget your picnic lunch.

Directions: Motorway A35 Strasbourg to Sélestat; turn off EXIT 17 and follow the road signs to Villé.

Contact: Bernard on 03 88 66 32 06 or Karl on 0049 781 94 00 530 by Friday 23rd September.

Post walk refreshments can be taken at Patisserie Pfister in Villé.



Save the date! for a hike in October

16 OCTOBER 2022, at 10.30 am with Polly

Please pencil the date down in your diaries. Full details to follow by email and on our website.

Save the date! for a Guy Fawkes bonfire evening

SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER - 6.30 pm - private garden in Kolbsheim

Bonfire Night is an event to celebrate the anniversary of a famous event in British history dating back to the Gunpowder plot of 1606. Guy Fawkes, the most famous traitor in British history, tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament and King James I. The anniversary of his arrest is celebrated each year with bonfires and fireworks. An effigy of Guy Fawkes is burned on top of the bonfire. An opportunity for a warm gathering...



Conversation groups

The organisation of each group is specific.
Please get the details of the dates and locations of the
next meetings directly from the group leaders listed below:



English conversation group

If you are interested in joining, please contact Nigel at nigelpermaul@gmail.com - 06 75 63 89 98

French conversation group

If you are interested in joining, please contact Colette at fredericka06@yahoo.fr - 03 88 20 21 17

Spanish conversation group

If you are interested in joining, please contact Maria at mtremoureux@esc-alsace.org - 06 11 12 68 51

German conversation group

If you are interested in joining, please contact Bronwyn at bharrowfield@esc-alsace.org - 06 85 33 11 24

Village des Assos

10 and 11 SEPTEMBER, Parc de la Citadelle ([link to full programme](#))

This is our annual opportunity to present the ESC to new potential members. We will be playing an American lawn game called Cornhole, which we hope will draw more people into conversation. If you have English-speaking friends who might want to join, please send them our way or come with them!

This year's new fair special for first-time ESC members is 1 "ESC Buck" per person (incl. kids), valid for 1 ESC standard event (<8€) or 1 drink at an apéro.

Burns supper will be back

Have you missed the Burns Supper over the past 3 years?
Well, have your diary ready and take note of 21/01/2023.

In the meantime, the Strasbourg Scottish Country Dancers will be holding a cost-free afternoon of dancing (celeidh and other simple dances) on Saturday, 10 September from 2.30 to 5.30 pm at the Foyer St Arbogast, 10, rue des Mérovingiens 67200 Strasbourg.

For any further information, please contact Sheila Roberts at alizonroberts@gmail.com, or just turn up on the day!





English tea afternoon in Kolbsheim



Garden party in La Robertsau



Ravito des cyclos along the Bruche



Marche gourmande in Obernai

Jubilee Barbecue: How you loved it!

I loved this wonderfully sunny event - the abundant sunshine itself and the sunny welcome of all the ESC organisers and members. First sight, the organisers busily receiving and laying out the delicious looking dishes for the later onslaught; the cricketers way over, so smart in their whites practising with bat and ball, Louise and Simon readying for their reading of the genius which is Shakespeare, everyone happily gathering around to listen and enjoy. (Maureen)



The BBQ was enjoyable and good fun. Why? Because of the “usual” ingredients: a nice bunch of people, good food and drink, a suitable venue and a very pleasant atmosphere which – as always – hugely benefited from the acoustic carpet beautifully rolled out by the musicians. (Thobi)

The barbecue this year was a great opportunity to meet new members. Happy to hear that one of them has just moved in my street! (Christine)

We both thoroughly enjoyed the barbecue! The Shakespeare reading was brilliantly done and we had great fun playing cricket! We also liked the band, the quiz and of course the Pimm's (Jane and Charlie)



I found this year's ESC barbecue very entertaining. The music added to the atmosphere. (Ablay)



This was my first time attending such an event and I felt a lot of positive emotions, for which I am truly grateful. Friendly communication, a variety of food and interesting activities. (Tolkyn)

I will honestly say that this BBQ was the best one that we have ever attended! People mixed together and it was a very social event (the Pimm's might also have had something to do with this...). The Shakespeare readings, the live music, the wonderful cooks and organisers and the English ale (bought especially in the UK) were greatly appreciated. And the cricket was a lot of fun. (Nancy and Thierry)

Ladies and Gentlemen, lend me your ears!

The committee and I would like to thank those who made this barbecue a special British event.

Margaret Killerby for pointing out that the Platinum Jubilee is timely and suggesting a series of events to be integrated into our annual ESC barbecue,

Olivier (sadly not Sir Laurence) for mixing the Pimm's,

Louise and Simon Palmer for proving us that Shakespeare is actually fun and more modern than we often believe,

Roger Massie for talking us through the history of cricket without venturing into its incomprehensible rules,

John Youngs for showing us with his cricket partners how to enjoy implementing those same incomprehensible rules,

Terence Boyle for being a witty and articulate quiz partner,

Eila Walker for using her talent and baking us a unique Union Jack cake for the raffle.

We hope to see you again next year!

Joëlle Glore, President

Martin, Raffle cake winner 2022

What a beautiful day was the 2022 annual barbecue! Everything was perfectly organised and, while we were enjoying the meal, our private orchestra played tunes that everybody appreciated.

This time, everyone had received tickets on arrival for a raffle. The prize was a cake. What a cake! A big piece decorated with blueberries and raspberries to honour the British flag as British citizens were celebrating the Queen's jubilee.

The youngest child present, Martin 5 ½ years was chosen to pick up the winning number. " Number 2! Who's got number 2? Nobody? ... Certainly someone busy washing the dishes! " ... In the kitchen a grandma said " My tickets are in Martin's pocket. ". By chance, the little boy had picked his own winning ticket!

Such a big and beautiful cake could not be eaten right away. After being kept in the freezer, one day in July it was given an enthusiastic welcome by nine children and their parents. Everyone loved it as it was as tasteful as it was colourful.



Martin, his cousins, grand-parents and aunts thank cheerfully the "master pâtissière" who baked this memorable cake, Mrs Eila Walker, and all the people who organised this brilliant party.

Chantal Krafft

Later comers, would you like to try our BBQ Commonwealth Quiz?

By Terry Boyle and Joëlle Glore

This mansion in London is the headquarters of the Commonwealth of Nations and the seat of the Commonwealth Secretariat. a) Marlborough House; b) Somerset House; c) Mansion House

Currently, how many countries make up the Commonwealth of Nations? a) 42; b) 45; c) 54

Commonwealth Day is celebrated annually on the second Monday In/of: a) February; b) March; c) June

The Commonwealth Games, also known as the 'Friendly Games' is held every four years in a city of the Commonwealth. In 2022, which city will host the Games? a) Victoria, Australia; b) Birmingham, UK; b) Hamilton, Canada

How was The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrated across the Commonwealth on Thursday, 2nd June, from 9pm onwards? a) Service of Thanksgiving for The Queen's reign held at St Paul's Cathedral; b) Commonwealth Beacons lit up in all the capital cities of the Commonwealth; c) The speech made by Princess Elizabeth II on her 21st birthday, during which she dedicated her life to the service of the Commonwealth

What is the name of the youngest child of the Queen Elizabeth?

What is the Queen's favourite colour?

Susan, the Queen's first corgi, had two puppies. a) Sugar and Sherry; b) Honey and Sherry; b) Sugar and Honey

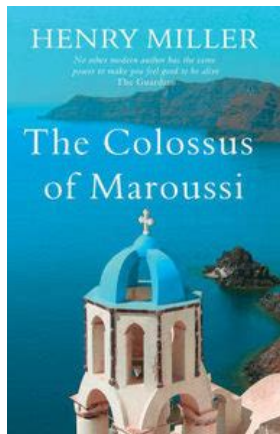
Prince Charles embarked on a career in which of the armed forces?

How many great grandchildren does the Queen have?



Book club review

“The Colossus of Maroussi” by Henry Miller



“ This is a work of self-discovery, a spiritual awakening combined with philosophical, lyric, poetic descriptions, and personal views. ”

This book is more than simply an impressionist, 9 months travelogue to Greece set against the backdrop of the impending outbreak of the second world war: Miller sought to be free to explore the world without the usual conventional organised tours. If you like Greece – its famous archaeological ruins, the kindness of its inhabitants, landscapes bathed in sunlight, if you enter this enriching trip with an open, dynamic mind, you might just enjoy it.

Miller writes in an effusive way, seeming to become almost ecstatically happy. This is a work of self-discovery, a spiritual awakening combined with philosophical, lyric, poetic descriptions, and personal views. Fearing an imminent catastrophe, he wanted to preserve an image of a world of beauty, brilliant light, and blue sky. He also wished to

capture the humanistic Greek spirit, simplicity, freedom, joy and peace.

Through his encounter with the poet and storyteller George Katsimbalis, an impressive and ‘colossal’ personality, he gives an insight into the lives of others:

“There are men who are so full, so rich, who give themselves so completely that each time you take leave of them you feel that it is absolutely of no consequence whether the parting is for today or forever.”

Christiane Lehmann and Mike Wraith

Editor's note: During the evening, Christiane shared her long term passion for Greece, which led her to choose this book and offer us a fantastic taverna style evening including Ouzo, Retsina and Greek red wine.



Henry Miller (1891-1980) was an American novelist who broke with existing literary forms and developed a new type of writing that blended character study, social and literary criticism, philosophical reflection, sex, free association, and mysticism.

His works based on experiences in New York and Paris were banned in the USA until 1961.

He also wrote travel books and considered The Colossus of Maroussi his best work.

Interested in joining the book club? Contact Joëlle at bookclub@esc-alsace.org

The next books for discussion are:

“ The Last Gift ” by Gurnah Abdulrazak on 12 September

“ The History of Love ” by Nicole Kraus on 10 October

“ The Crying of Lot 49 ” by Thomas Pynchon on 14 November

Obituary

Michael Hall (1942 – 2022)

Although we were of a similar age when Michael joined the UK Permanent delegation to the Council of Europe in 1998, there was no special reason we should sympathise. The national delegations were after all the natural tormenters of us in the Council Secretariat whose job it was to draft decisions acceptable to them. Also, we were separated by Land of Birth, University and Preferred Sport (respectively Africa vs India; Cambridge vs Oxford; rowing vs cricket, though it is true that we both studied German). None of this seemed to matter and yes, he could be very tolerant, as his son Bjorn agreed with a smile when we spoke at the Memorial event superbly organised by Birgit and the family at Kehl Friedhof and Yacht Club, with the involvement of ESC leadership past and present.

Michael was of course famous in Strasbourg for his sketches ('vignettes') not just of diplomatic life ('Eating for Britain') – which he would compose and read, although 'perform' would be a better word, in his inimitable voice – also for the delight of wider audiences up and down Europe. We treasure our copy of 'Dear Deutschland' in which he wrote kind personal words. No wonder his company was sought after when he was incapable of speaking or writing a boring sentence.

One stand-out memory? Perhaps when we, with Birgit and Claire, attended the Garter Ceremony at Windsor Castle ('Honi Soit Qui Mal y Pense') at the invitation of the Warden, Michael's former Strasbourg boss, the music-loving Ambassador Andrew Carter. Not that Michael was over-impressed by pageantry at the heart of the British Establishment.

Like his literary hero, John Le Carré, with whom he corresponded, he could be highly critical. 'Whose side are you on?' enquired one exasperated Ambassador.



He never lost his love of Africa, its peoples and wildlife. His email 'bulletins' to his friends from St Anne's 'Internat' as he called it, expressed delight at being able to communicate in Swahili to some of his nurses.

We know it was a great satisfaction for him, as well as value to posterity, that he was able to complete and pass on, not just to Foreign Office archives but to Oxford's Bodleian Library and its Cambridge equivalent, his 'Rhodesia Diary'. The latter described, as only he could do, in over 200 pages, the high-risk negotiations and arrangements, involving heavily-armed militias, in London, Geneva and Salisbury/Harari, ending a bloody civil war and monitoring the subsequent elections culminating in majority rule. He never mentioned that he was awarded the Rhodesia Medal, showing, on its reverse side, a Sable Antelope, one of his favourite beasts.



Roger Massie

Information

Journées Européennes du Patrimoine

17 and 18 SEPTEMBER

This is a great opportunity to visit heritage places and museums in your area and beyond. Check the programme for Strasbourg (in French only!) here [JournéesPatrimoine2022](#) and start planning your weekend.

Classified ads



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English plug, European adapter can be provided for free - Selling Price 70 Euro

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Newsletter Publication

We'll publish your announcements/advertisements, space permitting, limited to 100 words. Advertisements may be repeated twice if you let the Editor know if you need your ad repeated. This service is free to ESC Members, €40 for non-members and businesses, which should be included with submission. Items for publication should be in English. Please forward items to newsletter@esc-alsace.org

The deadline for next bimonthly copy (in November) is Sunday 19/10/2022

Cover picture: **Terrace of the Château de Kolbsheim**, 08-2022 - C. Manini